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The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 7 December 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

As a representative of the State chairing the statutory bodies of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement by the heads of the CIS States members on the situation in Afghanistan, adopted on 30 November 2001 in Moscow (see annex).

I should be grateful, if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) S. **Lavrov**

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Annex to the letter dated 7 December 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the heads of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on the situation concerning Afghanistan

Adopted on 30 November 2001

We, the heads of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), assess positively the conduct of the anti-terrorist operation by the international coalition in Afghanistan. We note that its coordination with the successful military action by the forces of the United Front has made it possible to strike a serious blow at the infrastructure of global terrorism and extremism in the territory of Afghanistan, including the Taliban, and is promoting the strengthening of general regional security and international stability.

We firmly advocate that the struggle by the world community against global terrorism should be conducted on a comprehensive and long-term basis in accordance with international law, and, first and foremost, the Charter of the United Nations. In order to eradicate the hotbeds of instability in Afghanistan, it is necessary to combine in a flexible manner measures based on force and political, legal and economic measures for bringing pressure to bear on the sources of the terrorist, extremist and drug threats. We emphasize that confronting terrorism, which has no specific national or regional face, is not a struggle against Islam or separate countries.

We declare our support for the process of a political settlement in Afghanistan under the auspices of the United Nations leading to the replacement of the Taliban regime, which has lost the right to be represented in power structures, and to the formation in the country of a multi-ethnic and broadly representative government, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1378 (2001). We stress that determining the future of Afghanistan is the exclusive and inalienable right of the Afghans themselves, who are faced with the task of building a renewed State that lives in peace and harmony with its neighbours and the international community as a whole, and we call for increased humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people and the elaboration of a broad international programme for the post-war restoration of Afghanistan's national economy.

We confirm our States' firm intention to take all necessary steps to ensure security in the territory of the CIS States members and to participate actively in setting up a global system to counteract terrorism in close cooperation with all interested countries and international organizations, with the leading role played by the United Nations and its Security Council.